

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 and 17-23 remain as presented in the prior response entitled "Amendment and Response to Office Action" filed October 4, 2004. Claims 13-16 were withdrawn in the prior response and are reinstated herein as new claims 24-27.

Claim 24 (new): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the shaft includes exterior and interior surfaces and the edges define elongate longitudinal slits extending through the shaft, the ribs extending through the slits respectively and into the interior surface of the shaft.

Claim 25 (new): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the edges protrude outwardly from the exterior surface of the shaft and the ribs include respective interior surfaces configured to abut against the respective edges and an adhesive secures the ribs to the respective edges.

Claim 26 (new): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the shaft and ribs include interior and exterior surfaces respectively, the ribs being unitary with a one-piece elongate cover adapted to surround the shaft and the interior surface of the ribs being spaced from the edges respectively.

Claim 27 (new): The sports equipment handle of claim 10 wherein the plurality of edges define depressions therebetween and the ribs overly the depressions respectively.

New claims 28-31 are also presented:

Claim 28 (new): A sports equipment handle adapted for lacrosse and hockey comprising in coacting combination:

- an elongate, hollow, cross-sectionally polygonal shaft having
 - a plurality of elongated, longitudinally extending, circumferentially successive, exteriorly substantially flattened side face regions, and
 - a plurality of exterior, elongated, longitudinally extending grooves, each groove being located along a different interfacial edge portion situated between circumferentially adjacent pairs of said side face regions; and

- a generally continuous layer extending over said side face regions and defining exterior surface portions that are generally individually flattened when said layer is generally radially adjacent to said side face regions and that are generally radially thickened when said layer is radially adjacent to each of said grooves, said layer being comprised of relatively soft, pliable, resilient, impact-absorbing, plastic material, whereby said layer defines an elongated, radially interiorly extending, cushioning rib over each of said grooves.

Claim 29 (new): The handle of claim 28 wherein between circumferentially adjacent pairs of said side face regions and radially inwardly adjacent to each of said grooves said shaft is radially inwardly thickened.

Claim 30 (new): The handle of claim 28 which includes at one end thereof a tapered portion that includes a region of reduced diameter that is adapted to extend into a head portion, and that is adapted to improve whip and flex characteristics of said handle while concurrently preserving the cross-sectionally polygonal character thereof.

Claim 31 (new): The handle of claim 28 wherein said shaft is octagonal, has two diametrically opposed and parallel exterior faces of substantially equal width, and the six remaining exterior faces have a total width which is greater than the width of each of said parallel exterior faces with three of said six faces each being on each side of said parallel exterior faces.